



Union Township Environmental Commission

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Minutes for March 12, 2013 Regular Meeting

Call to Order: The March 2013 meeting was called to order by Chairman Church at 7:05 PM, with the reading of the “Sunshine Law” announcement.

Roll Call: Present: Don Church, Bill Harclerode, Alan Ford, Claudia Rocca, & Chuck Neary; Absent: Steve Hurford, Brett Bragin & Jim Eschbach

Before beginning the meeting agenda a presentation by Princeton Hydro was given on the Sidney Brook Watershed Protection Plan to pursue the 319 Grant. Representing Princeton Hydro were Dr. Steve Souza, Christian Pollack and Paul Cooper. A map and information with recommendations was distributed to the members listing the areas for highest priority. They are:

- Finn Park Stormwater Improvements
- Race Street: Erosion, flooding and bank degradation having a direct effect on Sidney Brook. Mayor Michele McBride reported that there is also a severe road incision along Race Street. Funding is available for this project and should begin this summer.
- Union Township Public Works Yard Maintenance: Debris removal.

It was also recommended to put pressure on the DEP through the Township Committee and UTEC, as there are 11/2 to 2 million dollars in the DEP coffers for watershed protection.

Mayor Michele McBride addressed some other areas needing improvements or remediation:

- Removal of the old municipal building (The dam has already been removed)
- Highview Court residents have been before the Township Committee regarding the retention basin. It was recommended by Princeton Hydro that a restrictor was needed to retain the water.
- Sodres Farm and Pleasant Valley Orchards needs will be addressed next year.
- Infiltration basin for the parking lot. This would require little remediation and no permitting.

As a final recommendation, Princeton Hydro suggested requesting one-half million dollars from the DEP to address Finn Park, Race Street, Public Works Yard, Infiltration basin and removal of the old municipal building. The proposal would be sent to the DEP by Princeton Hydro in May, 2013. If more sites are needed to add to the proposal, they should be submitted to Princeton Hydro by mid April. Paul Cooper will re-scout the sites as there has not been an infield research in 4 years. A motion was made to go forward with the grant addressing the projects aforementioned by Bill Harclerode, seconded by Alan Ford. All were in favor.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Bill Harclerode motioned to accept the February 12, 2013 minutes. Claudia Rocca seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- Transco Pipeline: construction in underway. Patrick Drive residents most affected by the pipeline are keeping the Township Committee apprised. The road will be excavated one half at a time to insert the pipe and keep the road open.
- As there has been no new information on the proposed archery center, it is being removed from the agenda.

- A tour of the streams was done by Don Church, Michele McBride and Claudia Rocca and VJ DiRoberto. The clean-up will be on April 20, 2013. Two teams will be formed. Reflective vests, signs and cones will be acquired and we will be working with the Boy Scouts.
- Well Test Kits: An ad will be placed in the Hunterdon Democrat by Terry Wright. Mayor McBride will place information on the township website. Bill Harclerode will put fliers at the Busy Bee. Claudia Rocca will do follow-up.
- Northeast Diesel Collaborative will also be taken off of the agenda.

New Business:

- Sustainable New Jersey certification expires in December 2013; recertification must be submitted by June.
- Michele asked Don to write a letter to Planning Board for adoption of the Natural Resource Inventory

Chair's Report: Don continues to attend the environmental stewardship course through Rutgers University.

Township Committee Liaison' Report: In Matt Severino's absence Mayor McBride reported the congestion at Exit 12 off Route 78 has been discussed and there is the possibility of redirecting traffic off the exit.

Planning Board Liaison's Report: The March workshop was cancelled. Michael Molnar submitted an application for a variance for Block 12, Lot13.01, the site of an old fast food business. There are presently no buildings on the site. Final site approval was given to the development planned on the old Unorski site. An emergency evacuation plan for flooding along Race Street should be considered.

Reports of Subcommittees:

- Open Space (Chuck Neary): No report.
- Trails (Don Church): No report.
- Communication: A volunteer is still to work on the newsletter.
- Road Noise (Bill Harclerode): Truck mufflers need to be addressed thru the freeholder and then the State Police.
- Contaminated Sites (Brett Bragin): Absent

Hearing of Citizens: Joan Church was present and volunteered to take the minutes. Mayor McBride also present.

Other Matters: Don will contact Erica to have "The Highlands Rediscovered" film presented at a regular meeting. A flyer for the Pattenburg Easter Flower Sale was also received.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Alan Ford motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bill Harclerode. All in favor. The March 12, 2013 regular meeting of the UTEC was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2018